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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

10-2003

A Concert to Benefit the Western New York LGBT Domestic Violence Committee

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Gay Men's Chorus

*A Concert to
Benefit the
Western New York
Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and
Transgender
Domestic Violence
Committee*

Sunday
October 19, 2003
6:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist
Church Sanctuary
695 Elmwood Avenue
At Ferry
Buffalo NY

Sponsored by the YWCA Week Without Violence
And the WNY LGBT DV Committee
Suggested Donation—\$5

About Us

In the fall of 2001, a group of local individuals were called upon to take part in a "*just a few meetings*" to begin to address the issue of domestic violence in the LGBT WNY community. The effort was initiated by Haven House in the recognition that adequate services for victims of LGBT domestic violence have been relatively non-existent in our community. Those *few meetings* have since grown into a community-wide effort to stop domestic violence in the LGBT community. Since then a core group of dedicated volunteers has met monthly with a focus on increasing public awareness and the development of services. This has been a committed, get-things-done, fun group that has managed to accomplish quite a bit in a short amount of time. This has included the creation of:

- A **Safe Home** to provide emergency shelter for LGBT victims and their children
- **Palm Cards** highlighting facts and information about LGBT domestic violence
- **Brochures** which provide extensive information about how to identify domestic violence and how to get help
- **Kick-off concert** event as part of the YWCA's *Week Without Violence* and national *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

Our Mission is simple:

- Advocacy and support for Haven House's initiative to develop LGBT Safe Homes
- Public awareness of the issues surrounding LGBT domestic violence and the need for services
- Development of services for victims of LGBT domestic violence
- Fostering collaboration at all levels of service provision

Committee members also serve as members of the following organizations:

- New York State LGBT Domestic Violence Network
- Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence

*If you would like to become a member of the LGBT Domestic Violence Committee or if you would like more information please contact:
Laura Grube (Haven House) at 716-884-6002*

Program

Pat Shelly <i>Member, Domestic Violence Committee</i>	Welcoming Comments
Reverend Sarah Buxton-Smith <i>St. Andrew's Episcopal Church</i>	Invocation
Tanya Perrin-Johnson <i>CEO, YWCA of WNY</i>	YWCA Week Without Violence
Byron Brown <i>New York State Senate</i>	Presentation
John Morgan <i>Executive Director, MOCHA</i>	Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community

SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY

THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS

DIRECTED BY

BARBARA WAGNER

Pat Shelly	Closing Comments
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We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who have contributed their time and energy to this project.

W. N. Y. Chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
and

AIDS Community Services of WNY

for their generous financial support toward the development and printing of material for this project and meeting space.

Special thanks to **Senator Byron W. Brown** for his support of this project and printing of the LGBT Domestic Violence brochure.

Special thanks also to **Stephen Maglott** of Senator Brown's office for helping us to secure the funding necessary to create printed materials.

Thanks also to the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Law Students of the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Buffalo Law School** for providing the impetus for this project.

Gay & Lesbian Youth Services of WNY for their pass-through support.

Thanks to the **YWCA of WNY** for their co-sponsorship of this event.

Very special thanks to the **Gay Men's Chorus** and director **Barbara Wagner** for an *incredible* performance and their time and effort in making this event a success.

THANK YOU!

Finally, many thanks to the members of the
LGBT Domestic Violence Committee of WNY
who have volunteered their time over the past two years to bring this important issue to the forefront in our community:

Stephen Emmi
Laura Grube
Maureen Maliszewski
Kay Patterson
Jason Rein
Pat Shelly
Sharon Sisti

AIDS Community Services of WNY
Child and Family Services Haven House
Erie County Medical Center
Spectrum Human Services
Erie County Health Department
Gender Institute, University at Buffalo-SUNY
Hilbert College